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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 8, 1865.

To the House of Representatives :

In response to your resolution of the 25th ult., I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War, covering a list of the Quartermasters and Assistant Quartermasters now in the service and indicating the rank of each officer and the duty on which he is employed.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION OF SECRETARY OF WAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,)
War Department,)
Richmond, Va., Feb. 7, 1864. }

To the President :

SIR:—I have received the following resolution of the House of Representatives, referred by your Excellency to this Department:

“ Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to this House the number of Quartermasters now in the employment of the Confederacy, designating the number in active service in the field, and also the number in post and other duties, with their respective ranks.”

In response, I have the honor to transmit herewith a report from the Quartermaster General, containing the information desired by the House.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
Quartermaster General's Office, }
 Richmond, Feb. 4, 1865. }

Hon. J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War :

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the reference by you to this office of a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th January, 1865, requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate to the House "The number of Quartermasters now in the employment of the Confederacy, designating the number in active service in the field, and also the number in post and other duties, with their respective ranks," and in accordance with your instructions, to submit the following report, viz :

Whole number of Quartermasters now in the employment of the Confederacy,	1316
Quartermasters with the rank of <i>Lieut-Colonel</i> :	
Chief Quartermasters of armies,	2
Inspector of Railroad transportation,	1
On General Inspection duty,	1
On Post duty,	1
	— 5
Quartermasters with the rank of <i>Major</i> :	
Number in active service in the field, east of the Mississippi river,	173
Number on like duty in Trans-Mississippi Department, 30	
" assigned to Post and other duties, east of the Mississippi river,	66
" on like duty, west of the Mississippi river,	10
" Engaged in providing, inspecting and repairing field transportation, east of the Mississippi,	21
" on like duty, west of same,	4
" inspectors of Railroad transportation.	5
" on Tax in kind duty, east of the Mississippi,	8
" " " " " west " "	3
" unassigned, closing accounts for final settlement, under arrest, &c.,	4
" on Forage duty,	5
" on duty as Provost Marshals, Exchange Agents, &c., &c.,	9
" Prisoners of War,	3
" on general inspection duty,	2
" on duty abroad,	2
	— 345

Quartermasters with the rank of *Captain* :

Number in active service in the field, east of the Mississippi river,	590
“ on like duty, west of the Mississippi,	47
“ Post and other duties east of the Mississippi,	128
“ “ “ “ west “ “	18
“ engaged in providing, inspecting and repairing field transportation, east of the Mississippi,	42
“ on like duty, west “ “	3
“ on Tax in kind duty, east “ “	71
“ “ “ “ west “ “	14
“ unassigned, closing accounts, &c.,	9
“ on duty collecting and forwarding forage, &c.,	27
“ Prisoners of war,	12
“ on duty as Inspectors of Railroad transportation,	6
	— 966
Total number,	1316

RECAPITULATION.

Whole number of officers on duty with troops in the field,	842
“ “ on duty as Inspectors of Transportation and collecting forage,	112
“ “ on duty in connection with the tax in kind,	96
“ “ on Post duty proper (including those in charge of manufactories, purchasing supplies, &c.,)	223
“ “ Prisoners of War,	15
“ “ of all others,	28
	— 1316

It is deemed proper to add, that of those officers reported as on post duty, a considerable number are known to be over forty-five years of age; of the remainder not a few are officers who have been transferred from field to post duty, on surgeon's certificate of disability for the former, which disability was caused, in many instances, by exposure in the service, and in others by wounds received either prior or subsequent to their appointment as quartermasters. The policy of the Department has been to assign such officers to posts, relieving, at the same time when practicable, therefrom active and robust men who have been assigned to field duty to supply vacancies.

Another class of officers on post duty, comprises those who have acquired valuable experience in the discharge of important duties, and whose familiarity with the resources of the country and the wants of the army, combined with remarkable energy and efficiency renders them almost indispensable to the public service in their present positions.

It may also be added that a number of the officers included in

the foregoing summary, are known to be absent from their commands on sick leave and on furloughs.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. LAWTON, Q. M. General.

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